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My name is GuyAnne Smoke. My husband Terry and I are the proud parents of two young girls ages 11 and 16. Our oldest daughter Alyson has spastic quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy and she is Deafblind.

Alyson is in her second year of high school at the Pines. Our biggest concern as parents is what is going to happen once Alyson graduates high school. We receive some funding for in-home supports but once she graduates at age 21, she will be home an additional 30-35 hours per week. Much of the funding that I now receive is from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and will disappear when she reaches 18 years of age. We all have dreams for our children. We want them to have lives that are purposeful and meaningful. It is our dream that in the future that Alyson would be able to live in her own home – possibly with a roommate with the necessary supports in place that allow her to live her life on her terms with some independence and dignity throughout her adult life.

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At this time there is not much in the form of additional, sustainable supports available. Most of the funding is already tapped out. Day Programs, Adult Respite and Residential Supports have extremely long waiting lists. In our area, there are waiting lists for Special Services at Home, Passport Funding, Adult Respite Services, Group Home placements and more.

I have recently connected with Wilma Arthurs who is a mother of a young lady in Sarnia that has the same concern we have about the future of our children with disabilities. Last year, Wilma, a photographer, started the *Real People Campaign* by photographing families with children and adults who have intellectual disabilities. She put the photographs along with the stories written by the families and presented them to government officials to request more funding be put into Developmental Services. Meetings took place with Ministers from the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Finance as well as other Members of Parliament.

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Having photos of the people to go along with the stories has proven to be effective. We need to keep putting our faces and stories before the government and keep the pressure on for them to listen to our needs. We believe that there is power in numbers. Wilma has graciously offered her services to photograph Chatham-Kent families that are interested in joining the campaign.

We are joining forces with Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex families to expand the *Real People Campaign* in hopes of conveying the importance of our concerns

All it takes is for you to contact me to set up an appointment to have your portrait taken at no charge and to write your story for us. We will submit it into our campaign portfolio to use for subsequent meetings with Ministry.

I hope you will consider being apart of the campaign and expressing your family's needs, hopes, dreams and fears. It does make a difference!

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Please join our  
campaign by having  
your families' photo  
taken and telling  
your  
story

Show our Provincial and  
Federal governments that we  
are not just numbers and names  
on wait lists,  
but real people  
with real needs  
that must be met!

Questionnaire to help  
tell your story

Describe your family member  
with a disability and what your  
family is like.

What does your family need  
to be able to function  
as every other family in our  
province/country?

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If you prefer to submit  
your own family photo  
with your story,  
please feel free to do so.

For further information  
or to book your  
photography  
appointment  
Please contact me

GuyAnne Smoke  
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# REAL PEOPLE CAMPAIGN



Putting real people  
and real stories  
before our governments  
to request  
more funding  
for needed services

Supported by:  
Community Living Chatham-Kent  
Community Living Wallaceburg  
Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent

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